

LYCIA ZONARIA (D. & S.) (LEPIDOPTERA: GEOMETRIDAE) ON COLL, INNER HEBRIDES. — The timetable for the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry plying between Oban, Tobermory, Coll and Tiree is such that it is possible to have up to three hours ashore on Coll whilst the ferry does the return trip on to Tiree. On the 11th June 1980 I took advantage of this opportunity and with a hired bicycle for transport I spent nearly two hours collecting Coleoptera in the extensive area of dune and machair between Feall Bay and Crossapol Bay near the southwest tip of the island. Whilst sweeping *Lotus corniculatus* L. amongst the *Ammophila* on the fixed dunes (NM 146541) I took five larvae of *Lycia zonaria* (D. & S.) Although this species is widespread on the machair of the Outer Hebrides (J. N. Greatorex-Davies, 1980, *Entomologist's Gaz.*, 31: 19-22) and has been recorded from Tiree, Rhum and Canna it has not, to my knowledge been previously recorded from Coll although its occurrence on the island was to be expected. However, at least during my brief visit, it must have been present in very low numbers as hand searching of the host plant in many separate localities failed to reveal further specimens. A number of other sandy bays was visited on Mull, Iona and Skye between 8th and 19th June 1980 but no further *L. zonaria* larvae were seen. Of the sites visited the extensive machair at the northern end of Iona (NM 2925) looked the most promising but the severe overgrazing of the whole area probably reduced its suitability for *L. zonaria*. — R. COLIN WELCH, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs., PE17 2LS, 8th August 1980.

PAMMENE OBSCURANA STEPH. IN STAFFORDSHIRE. — I have now had three examples of this apparently scarce species in North Staffordshire, suggesting that it is thinly spread in the area in places where there are mature birch trees. The first was on 24th May 1976 at Craddocks Moss, a dried-out peat bog on which birch carr has developed. The second, on 3rd June 1979, was resting on the trunk of a beech tree in my garden at Trentham. A large birch tree stands near to the beech. The third specimen came to actinic light at Burnt Wood on 4th June 1980. — R. G. WARREN, Wood Ridings, 32 Whitmore Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.

THE VESTAL: RHODOMETRA SACRARIA L. ON ROMNEY MARSH. — I took a specimen of this migrant moth from the m.v. trap in the garden here on 14th August 1980. — J. E. OWEN, Eastbridge House, Dymchurch, Kent.

MATING BEHAVIOUR OF EPHESTIA KUEHNIELLA ZELLER (LEP.: PYRALIDAE). — On 6.xii.1979, I was given a culture of *E. kuehniella* by Philip Sterling, who had previously obtained them from Rev. David Agassiz at Enfield, Middlesex. This produced large numbers of moths, so I fortunately became rather behind with my setting, and was therefore able to observe the mating behaviour in this species. Emergence

occurred almost always in the afternoon, and mating began fairly soon after the wings were dry. The female was stationary, with her abdomen projecting upwards between her almost closed wings. The male ran dizzily across the substrate, flapping his wings and making occasional short flights, eventually homing in on the female. On making contact, he rapidly whipped the tip of his abdomen over to meet the tip of hers. After two or three attempts in this way, successful contact was normally achieved.

The 'dizzy' behaviour of the male suggests that this behaviour is prompted by pheromones, but I could detect no smell, nor could I see any eversible structures (other than the genitalia themselves) on either sex, in spite of considerable prodding as well as observation. It also seems that mating has to occur fairly soon after emergence: I deliberately put two individuals indulging in courtship into separate tubes and later put them together again, but there was no reaction, and no attempts at mating were made. — P. J. JOHNSON, 7, Haverhill Road, Horseheath, Cambridge, CB1 6QR.

COLEOPHORA FUSCOCUPRELLA H.-S. IN HAMPSHIRE. — In October 1979, I found several cases on birch in Havant Thicket, and the moths emerged the following May. More cases were found in October 1980. Small bushes, especially seedlings, are preferred; and when feeding is completed the cases attach to the stem of the foodplant. The species has been previously unrecorded in Hampshire. — Dr. J. R. LANGMAID, 38, Cumberland Court, Festing Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 0NH.

AN ADDITIONAL EARLY SIGHTING OF THE SMALL TORTOISESHELL IN KENT. — Following Mr. Randall's note (*Ent. Rec.*, 92: 87), I should like to report another early sighting of *Aglais urticae* L. in the Isle of Thanet, Kent. At about midday on 25th January 1980, a single specimen landed on the roof of a white mini van parked in Rumfields Road, St. Peters, Broadstairs, and then flew into a nearby garden. It was a clear day, and mild for the time of year. This is certainly the earliest date that I have observed any butterfly species on the wing. — A. P. FOSTER, Ladn Vean, Grove Hill, Mawnan Smith, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 5ES.

THE PALE EGGAR: TRICHIURA CRATAEGI L. IN KENT. — According to the *Supplement to The Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, this species appears to have become much scarcer in the county. It may therefore be of interest that I took two females in 1980, the first here on the night of 14th/15th September, and the second at m.v. at the southern end of Long Rope Wood, Orlestone on the 15th September. — M. ENFIELD, New Cottage, Warren Farm, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent TN25 4HW.

THE SMALL MARBLED: EUBLEMMA PARVA HBN. IN HAMPSHIRE. — A single specimen of this species came to my m.v. trap at Southsea on the night of 7th August 1980. — Dr. J. R. LANGMAID, 38, Cumberland Court, Festing Road, Southsea, Hants.